

MEETING MINUTES

Notice was hereby given that the Board of Directors of YES Prep Public Schools held a regular meeting, open to the public, on **Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 11:40 AM**. The Board convened in Open Session at 4265 San Felipe Street, Suite 1100; Houston, TX 77027 – Anchor Offices (11th floor). Members of the public were able to submit a request to comment on any agenda items(s) to dana.foughty@yesprep.org.

The subjects to be discussed or considered or upon which any formal action may have been taken were listed below. Items did not have to be taken in the order shown on this meeting notice. Consent agenda items, if applicable, were acted on at one time. If during the course of the meeting, discussion of any item on the agenda was held in a closed meeting, the Board conducted a closed meeting in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Section 551, Subchapters D and E. Before any closed meeting was convened, the presiding officer *publicly* identified the section or sections of the Act authorizing the closed meeting. All final votes, actions, or decisions were taken in an open meeting.

YES Prep Board of Directors Present: Michol Ecklund, Jordan Marye, Mickey Barrett, Joe Gatto, Andrea Link, Brian Colona

YES Prep Staff Members Present: Mark DiBella, Carmen Darville, Phil Wright, Dana Foughty, Tony Munoz, Luis Mena, Isy Castillo, Julie Nguyen, Danika Palacios, Ireri Rebollar, Cesar Cedillos, Amanda Rawlings

1. Call to Order, quorum determined, meeting declared open 3:09 PM

2. Business Agenda

1	Vote to approve adoption of the board policy titled <i>PG-2.402 Special Education</i> .	
	Motion	Jordan Marye
	Second	Joe Gatto
	Unanimously approved at	3:09 PM
	Board Member	Vote
	Chris Barbic	☐ Assent ☐ Dissent ☒ Absent ☐ Recuse
	Mickey Barrett	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse
	Brian Colona	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse
	Michol Ecklund	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse
	Joe Gatto	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse
	Andrea Link	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse
	Ben Marshall	☐ Assent ☐ Dissent ☒ Absent ☐ Recuse
	Jordan Marye	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse

2	Vote to approve adoption of the board policy titled <i>PG-2.404 Transition Services</i>. <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motion</td><td>Jordan Marye</td></tr> <tr> <td>Second</td><td>Joe Gatto</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unanimously approved at</td><td>3:10 PM</td></tr> </table> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Board Member</th><th>Vote</th></tr> <tr> <td>Chris Barbic</td><td>☐ Assent ☐ Dissent ☒ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mickey Barrett</td><td>☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> <tr> <td>Brian Colona</td><td>☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> <tr> <td>Michol Ecklund</td><td>☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> <tr> <td>Joe Gatto</td><td>☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> <tr> <td>Andrea Link</td><td>☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ben Marshall</td><td>☐ Assent ☐ Dissent ☒ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> <tr> <td>Jordan Marye</td><td>☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> </table>	Motion	Jordan Marye	Second	Joe Gatto	Unanimously approved at	3:10 PM	Board Member	Vote	Chris Barbic	☐ Assent ☐ Dissent ☒ Absent ☐ Recuse	Mickey Barrett	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse	Brian Colona	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse	Michol Ecklund	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse	Joe Gatto	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse	Andrea Link	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse	Ben Marshall	☐ Assent ☐ Dissent ☒ Absent ☐ Recuse	Jordan Marye	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse
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3	Vote to approve adoption of the board policy titled <i>PG-2.405 Dyslexia and Related Disorders</i>. <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motion</td><td>Jordan Marye</td></tr> <tr> <td>Second</td><td>Joe Gatto</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unanimously approved at</td><td>3:11 PM</td></tr> </table> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Board Member</th><th>Vote</th></tr> <tr> <td>Chris Barbic</td><td>☐ Assent ☐ Dissent ☒ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mickey Barrett</td><td>☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> <tr> <td>Brian Colona</td><td>☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> <tr> <td>Michol Ecklund</td><td>☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> <tr> <td>Joe Gatto</td><td>☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> <tr> <td>Andrea Link</td><td>☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ben Marshall</td><td>☐ Assent ☐ Dissent ☒ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> <tr> <td>Jordan Marye</td><td>☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> </table>	Motion	Jordan Marye	Second	Joe Gatto	Unanimously approved at	3:11 PM	Board Member	Vote	Chris Barbic	☐ Assent ☐ Dissent ☒ Absent ☐ Recuse	Mickey Barrett	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse	Brian Colona	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse	Michol Ecklund	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse	Joe Gatto	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse	Andrea Link	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse	Ben Marshall	☐ Assent ☐ Dissent ☒ Absent ☐ Recuse	Jordan Marye	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse
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4	Vote to adopt a board resolution certifying compliance with the overlapping legal requirements of HB1707 and HB2 under the Texas Education Code. <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motion</td><td>Jordan Marye</td></tr> <tr> <td>Second</td><td>Joe Gatto</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unanimously approved at</td><td>3:11 PM</td></tr> </table> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Board Member</th><th>Vote</th></tr> <tr> <td>Chris Barbic</td><td>☐ Assent ☐ Dissent ☒ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mickey Barrett</td><td>☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> <tr> <td>Brian Colona</td><td>☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> <tr> <td>Michol Ecklund</td><td>☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> <tr> <td>Joe Gatto</td><td>☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> <tr> <td>Andrea Link</td><td>☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ben Marshall</td><td>☐ Assent ☐ Dissent ☒ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> </table>	Motion	Jordan Marye	Second	Joe Gatto	Unanimously approved at	3:11 PM	Board Member	Vote	Chris Barbic	☐ Assent ☐ Dissent ☒ Absent ☐ Recuse	Mickey Barrett	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse	Brian Colona	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse	Michol Ecklund	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse	Joe Gatto	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse	Andrea Link	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse	Ben Marshall	☐ Assent ☐ Dissent ☒ Absent ☐ Recuse		
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3. Consent agenda:

1	Vote to approve meeting minutes from March 19, 2026.
2	Vote to approve purchasing 2026-2027 Instructional Materials, educational software and related services for an estimated amount of \$6,669,573.85, and delegate authority to the CEO and his designees to negotiate, finalize, and execute the agreement(s), and amendment(s).
3	Vote to approve awarding a contract to a pool of vendors for RFP#YESP2026-06 Electrical Services, and delegate authority to the CEO and his designees to negotiate, finalize, and execute the agreement(s), amendment(s), and renewal(s) through July 30, 2030.
4	Vote to approve awarding a contract to a pool of vendors for RFP#YESP2026-07 HVAC and Plumbing, and delegate authority to the CEO and his designees to negotiate, finalize, and execute the agreement(s), amendment(s), and renewal(s) through July 30, 2030.
5	Vote to approve awarding a contract to Linbeck Group, LLC. for RFP#YESP2026-10 Multi Project Renovation (SES) project for an estimated amount of \$1,360,158.00.
6	Vote to authorize CEO to award a contract for RFP# YESP2026-14 for exterior and interior painting project and to bring the full contract to the May Board Meeting for ratification.
7	Vote to approve the 1-year E-Rate contract with DataVox for infrastructure equipment.
8	Vote to ratify the 3-month E-Rate contract with ByteSpeed for infrastructure equipment.
9	Vote to approve the 1-year E-Rate contract with Insource Technology Direct, LLC for infrastructure equipment.
10	Vote to approve the 3-year E-Rate service agreement with Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC for managed direct internet access.
11	Vote to ratify the contract agreement with Durand Research and Marketing Associates, LLC.
12	Vote to ratify the business associate agreement with Brown & Brown Insurance Services, Inc. for health plan services.
13	Vote to ratify the master services agreement with Winston Financial Services, Inc. for health plan services.
14	Vote to ratify the master services agreement with LEAP AGENCY, LLC for digital media strategic planning services.
15	Vote to approve the 3-year IMPACT College Partnership MoU with St. Olaf College.

Consent Vote 2 – dollar amount is large – what is the competition? What is the process? Do vendors come to us? Different RFPs have come to us

- Everything is through Ops and procurement to negotiate the best prices
- Items and costs change based on instructional needs each year
- An RFP or co-op used

Motion	Andrea Link
Second	Brian Colona
Unanimously approved at	3:14 PM

Board Member	Vote
Chris Barbic	☐ Assent ☐ Dissent ☒ Absent ☐ Recuse
Mickey Barrett	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse
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EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE §§551.071, 551.072, and 551.074, the Board will deliberate, in accordance with the above statutes, real estate matters, and personnel matters.

4. Executive Session at 3:14 PM

5. Adjournment at 4:12 PM

WORKSHOP MINUTES

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1. Call to Order, quorum determined, workshop declared open at 11:41 AM.

2. Public Comment

- No public comment

3. Mission Moment - Outcomes: Local, State, and National Context

- Fireside chat facilitated by Mark DiBella
- Guests: Natalie Kaharick, CEO, Texas Public Charter School Association and Steve Kean, CEO, Greater Houston Partnership
- TPCSA
 - A statewide org that all charters can join
 - Advocate for charters to be treated fairly at the legislature
 - 30th anniversary of charter school law passed in Texas
 - Studies show charter school graduates -
 - are more college ready
 - have better college persistence and earn more advanced degrees
 - earn more money; creating an economic impact
- Greater Houston Partnership
 - Three areas: workforce development, education, community resilience
 - We are seeing a shortage of electricians, healthcare workers, and advanced manufacturing in Houston
 - Houston attracts advanced manufacturing
 - Houston is the number one metro in adding to the under 18 population

- What are the obstacles for career pathways?
 - Students not knowing what opportunities are out there
 - Lack of understanding what the pathways are and what it could mean in terms of how much they can earn
 - It is not just about a 4-year degree – there are other pathways that are not as well understood
 - People need to be able to access and see themselves doing it
- Navigating Risks
 - Risk of sending students to college and them not being able to afford it
 - Risk of not sending enough students to college and lowering the bar
- What gives you hope?
 - Houstonian optimism about the future
 - Houstonians feel if you work hard, you will succeed in this city
 - Next generation of kids are very compassionate and idealistic about the world
 - Being in an education setting with kids gives hope

4. Strategic Focus: Upskilling Using AI

- Presented by Carmen Darville and Amanda Rawlings
- Artificial Intelligence in academics
 - Effective technology integration occurs at the intersection of the content, pedagogy and tech knowledge, not through tech knowledge alone – tech only classroom would not be effective
 - Awareness and access does not equal efficiency
- Job Market Data
 - 628K job postings that require AI skills in postings in 2024
- Current pilots at YES Prep
 - One teacher per campus trained on PowerBuddy – AI feature within Schoology probes with Socratic questions
 - Amira – listens to students speaking/reading and analyzes in real time
 - Updated AI policy
- Opportunity gaps
 - AI literacy as a goal
 - What would it look like to have this as a goal starting in 2028?
 - YES Prep, in larger context, will need to define AI literacy
 - Options: Embedded in curriculum, go to a class once a week, etc

5. Program Report

- Presented by Phil Wright and Amanda Rawlings
- A-F Projections - Elementary
 - A-District within reach
 - 8/9 campuses increased overall score from CA1
 - 7/9 increased a letter grade
 - EEE and SWOE are greatest priority
 - NRE increased from C to an A.
- A-F Projections – Secondary
 - 13/15 campuses projected to be A-rated
 - 12/15 campuses improved/maintained from CA1 to CA2
 - Hobby grew 9 pts to a high B without CCMR pts
- Framing Outcomes

- College to career
- Kids need a clearer path on the front end when planning for college
- We will continue to define and search for knowable data
- College and Career Focus Strategy
 - Strategy has evolved since the November board meeting and centered on these areas:
 - College ready programming
 - TSIA/SAT (TSIA is Texas' version of the SAT)
 - CCMR accountability (CCMR: College Career, Military Readiness)
 - CTE pathways
 - OnRamps:
 - Dual credit program that operates out of UT –
 - Allows kids to get high school and college credit
 - Offered at all campuses
 - The more opportunities we give kids to earn CCRM points, the more it will be beneficial to them and us
- Suggestion: Include it in our goals for seniors to be college-ready
 - Would like to align it with our new CCMR
 - "College Ready" missing from our goals
 - Have this as a beta goal for next year
 - We will come back with a proposal to the Board in June on how this will be incorporated into the goals for next year
- Matriculation:
 - Over the years since we transitioned away from Alumni Transition Specialists we have come up with creative solutions to engage students and grown 3%
 - We can measure our success by how kids score on their tests and how they matriculate
 - Tracking the schools where our kids are more successful in matriculating

6. Finance and Real Estate Report

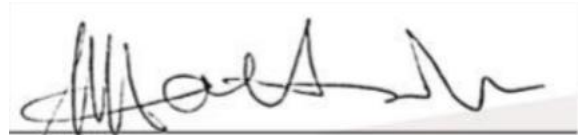
- Finance presented by Luis Mena
 - Weakening in our financial sustainability
 - Risk in enrollment and fundraising – we will continue to look at this all year long
- Real Estate presented by Carmen Darville
 - Gulfton – this community hosts opportunities and challenges
 - Do we continue to explore real estate in this community?
 - If we did not do it, we may not be able to use this funding in other areas
 - Some donor money will have a contingency of growth
 - We are looking at opportunities to close out the feeder pattern specifically rather than just growing
 - What happens to the Gulfton secondary if we do not build the feeder?
 - Currently we do not have enough data

7. CEO Report

- CSGF Annual Report came out yesterday
 - YES Prep is spotlighted
 - Report will be shared with the board.
- The Power of YES Campaign
 - Poker event successful
 - Raised nearly 1.8mm
 - We are 89% towards our campaign goal

- Average Daily Attendance
 - Continuing to make progress
 - EOY projection: 94%
- Student Persistence
 - Outperforming local districts, peer charters and the Texas average
 - Reminder this is a one-way metric – can only stay flat or decrease
- Organization Goal update
 - Meeting all goals or within striking distance except budgeted enrollment

8. Adjournment 3:07 pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea Link", written over a horizontal line.

*Reviewed and approved by Board Secretary, Andrea Link
Minutes will be posted within 7 days of the meeting, and it will be reposted after vote approval at the next Board meeting.*